

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for planning a delivery of at least one good, comprising:
receiving a description of the good, a destination location, and a requested delivery date;
selecting a source location for the good;
determining a set of trips based on a set of geographic routes, transportation service provider information, and scheduling information;
selecting a trip from the set of trips based on a set of criteria; and
scheduling the trip such that the good is scheduled to be delivered from the source location to the destination location substantially close to the requested delivery date.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a set of trips comprises selecting one or more geographic routes from the set of geographic routes.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting one or more geographical routes comprises restricting the set of geographical routes based on a geographical classification for the source location and the destination location.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a set of trips comprises selecting a transportation service provider for each geographic route.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of dangerous goods.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of closeness of a trip delivery date to the requested delivery date.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of cost information.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of customer information.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of a date the source location can make the good available for shipping.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein scheduling comprises confirming the source location can make the good available for shipping by a trip departure date of the trip.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein scheduling further comprises selecting, if the trip is not confirmed, another trip based on a date the source location can provide the good for shipping.

12. A system for planning the delivery at least one good, the system comprising:

a central processing unit;

a customer interface process configured for execution by the central processing unit, the customer interface process comprising instructions for receiving a description of the good, a destination location, and a requested delivery date, and for selecting a source location for the good; and

a scheduling process initiated by the customer interface process comprising instructions for:

initiating a route generation process comprising instructions for determining a set of trips based on a set of geographic routes, transportation service provider information, and scheduling information, wherein each trip comprises a trip departure date and a trip delivery date; and selecting a trip from the set of trips based on a set of criteria; and

scheduling the trip such that the requested good is scheduled to be delivered from the source location to the destination location substantially close to the requested delivery date.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the route generation process further comprises instructions for selecting at least one geographic route from the set of geographic routes.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the route generation process further comprises instructions for restricting the set of geographical routes based on a geographical classification for the source location and the destination location.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the route generation process further comprises instructions for selecting transportation service provider information and scheduling information corresponding to the set of geographic routes.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein the route generation process further comprises instructions for checking the set of trips for compliance with the set of criteria, the set of criteria including at least one criterion representative of dangerous goods.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of closeness of the trip delivery date to the delivery date

18. The system of claim 12, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of cost information.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of customer information.

20. The system of claim 12, wherein the set of criteria comprises at least one criterion representative of a date the source location can make the good available for shipping.

21. The system of claim 12, wherein the customer interface process further comprises instructions for confirming whether the source location can make the good available for shipping by the trip departure date of the trip.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the customer interface process further comprises instructions for initiating, if the trip is not confirmed, the scheduling process to select another trip based on a date the source location can make the good available for shipping.

23. A computer-readable medium containing instructions to configure a data processor to perform a method for planning a delivery of at least one good, the method comprising:

receiving a description of the good, a destination location, and a requested delivery date;

selecting a source location for the good;

determining a set of trips based on a set of geographic routes, transportation service provider information, and scheduling information;

selecting a trip from the set of trips based on a set of criteria; and

scheduling the trip such that the good is scheduled to be delivered from the source location to the destination location substantially close to the requested delivery date.

24. A system comprising:

means for receiving a description of at least one good, a destination location, and a requested delivery date;

means for selecting a source location for the good;

means for determining a set of trips based on a set of geographic routes, transportation service provider information, and scheduling information, wherein each trip comprises a trip departure date and a trip delivery date;

means for selecting a trip from the set of trips based on a set of criteria;

and

means for scheduling the trip such that the good is scheduled to be delivered from the source location to the destination location substantially close to the requested delivery date.

25. A method for planning a delivery of at least one good, comprising:

receiving sales order information, the sales order information including a description of the good, a destination location, and an indication of when delivery of the good is requested;

selecting a source location for the good based on whether the good is available at the source location;

determining a set of trips based on a set of geographic routes, transportation service provider information, and an availability date of the good at the source location;

selecting a trip from the set of trips based on a set of criteria; and

scheduling the trip based on the availability date, such that the good is scheduled to be delivered from the source location to the destination location.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising:

eliminating trips based on dangerous good data.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

receiving, as the indication, an instruction to delivery the good as a rush order.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein scheduling further comprises:

scheduling forward from the availability date, when the indication corresponds to the rush order.

29. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

updating sales order information with one or more dates corresponding to the scheduled trip.

30. A method for planning a delivery of at least one good, comprising:
- receiving sales order information, the sales order information including a description of the good, a destination location, and a requested delivery date;
 - selecting a source location for the good based on whether the good is available at the source location;
 - determining a set of trips based on a set of geographic routes, transportation service provider information, and the requested delivery date;
 - selecting a trip from the set of trips based on a set of criteria; and
 - scheduling back from the requested delivery date, such that the good is scheduled to be delivered from the source location to the destination location substantially close to the requested delivery date.